United Nations S/AC.51/2007/4

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2008
English
Original: French

Letter dated 8 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council*

I write in my capacity as Chairman of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established by resolution 1612 (2005).

At its fifth meeting, on 6 September 2006, the Working Group adopted its conclusions with respect to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2006/389) (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean-Marc **de La Sablière**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Portions of the present document were issued previously under the symbol S/2006/724.

08-34507 (E) 290508

Annex to the letter dated 8 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

Conclusions on parties in the armed conflict of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

At its fourth meeting, on 26 June 2006, the Working Group examined a report by the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the DRC, introduced by the SRSG. The Permanent Representative of the DRC participated in the subsequent discussion.

The main elements of the exchange of views among the WG were as follows:

- The quality of the report was emphasized by everyone, and the Secretary-General's analysis and recommendations met with a favourable response;
- There was encouraging and positive cooperation by the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- Measures to combat impunity were essential; several speakers referred to the additional steps taken by the International Criminal Court and to the transfer of Thomas Lubanga. Some members called for firm measures against L. Nkunda in particular;
- Most of the participants called for the adoption of vigorous specific recommendations;
- The role of donors was critical in assisting the Congolese authorities in discharging their obligations;
- The Working Group should ensure that, in the discussions to be held with the authorities yet to be elected on the continuation of an international presence in the country, the protection of children remains a priority;
- There was general support for the Secretary-General's intention to send his Special Representative on a mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular to contribute to discussion of renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). Ms. Coomaraswamy stated that she would travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and base her activities on the recommendations of the Council following its consideration of the report, which she expected to see adopted in the very near future.

Further to this meeting, the Working Group has agreed to the following:

- Letter by the Chair of the WG to the new elected authorities of DRC urging them to take appropriate legal action against members of FARDC accused of grave crimes against children, and to take corrective measures at top level of military hierarchy;
- Letter by the Chair of the WG bringing to the attention of United Nations agencies and donor Governments the need to support the Government of the DRC with technical assistance for *Auditeurs Militaires* in bringing an end to

impunity for grave violations against children committed by military forces or armed groups present in the DRC, as well as the need to develop and strengthen sustainable DDR programmes in DRC in close cooperation with non-governmental organizations and local communities;

- Letter by the Chair of the WG to the Secretary-General reiterating the responsibility of MONUC in its mandate (S/2004/1565, para. g) to aid the Government of the DRC in apprehending and bringing to justice child abusers, specifically dissident General Laurent Nkunda and asking MONUC to update the WG on the status of dissident General Nkunda every 2 months;
- Letter by the President of the Security Council to the authorities of DRC inviting them to pay particular attention to girls exploited by armed forces and groups, in the DDR process;
- Recommend UNSC to consider and forward [draw from the toolkit — point 5] to its Sanctions Committee on DRC the WG's grave concern on the repeated violations by the leaders of the MRC, including by their activities in neighbouring States, of the Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict;
- Démarche by the President of the Security Council with the Government of Rwanda on the need to cease any movements of dissident General Laurent Nkunda into and out of the territory of the Republic of Rwanda;
- Recommend the Secretary-General and UNSC, when renegotiating with the authorities of the DRC the mandate of MONUC, to preserve and strengthen the framework in place for the protection of children, including MONUC's capacity to protect girls from rape and other forms of gender-based violence;
- Letter by the Chair of the WG to the Secretary-General welcoming his intention to ask SRSG to visit DRC.